

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment, reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

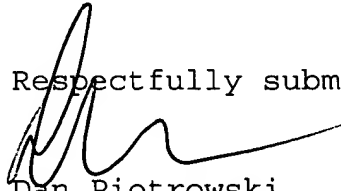
Claims 1-3, and 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.§102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Masunaga et al. (U.S. 5,742,329), hereafter "Masunaga". Claims 4, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.§103(a) as allegedly being obvious over the combination of Masunaga in view of Maeng (U.S. 5,959,667). Claims 5-12, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.§103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Masunaga in view of applicant's cited prior art ACPA. Claims 14-16 stand rejected 35 U.S.C.§103(a) as allegedly being obvious over the combination of Ippolito in view of Mansunaga. Claims 1, 14-19 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2-13 and 20-24 are pending.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 13 is allowable and claim 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant submits that independent claim 20 has been amended to recite the limitations of claim 25. Accordingly, applicants

respectfully submit that amended independent claim 20, as well as dependent claims 2-12 and 21-24, as amended, are patentable for at least the same reasons.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that none of the instant claims would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art over any combination of the applied references. Entry of this amendment and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Dan Piotrowski
Registration No. 42,079

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On April 14, 2004

By Edna Chapa